

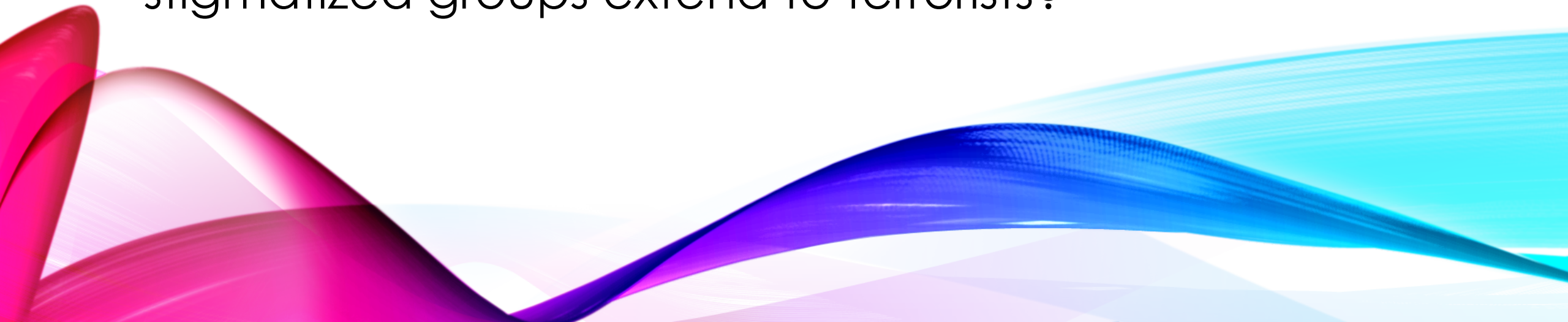
PERCEPTION OF OTHERS AND THEIR ACTIONS

PI: Hope Sabin

Research Mentor: Dr. Clabaugh

WHAT IS THE EXTENT WHICH A PERSON CAN EMPATHIZE TO WITH A NEGATIVELY STIGMATIZED GROUP?

Can the ability to empathize with negatively stigmatized groups extend to terrorists?



CAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS TERRORISTS BE PLASTIC?

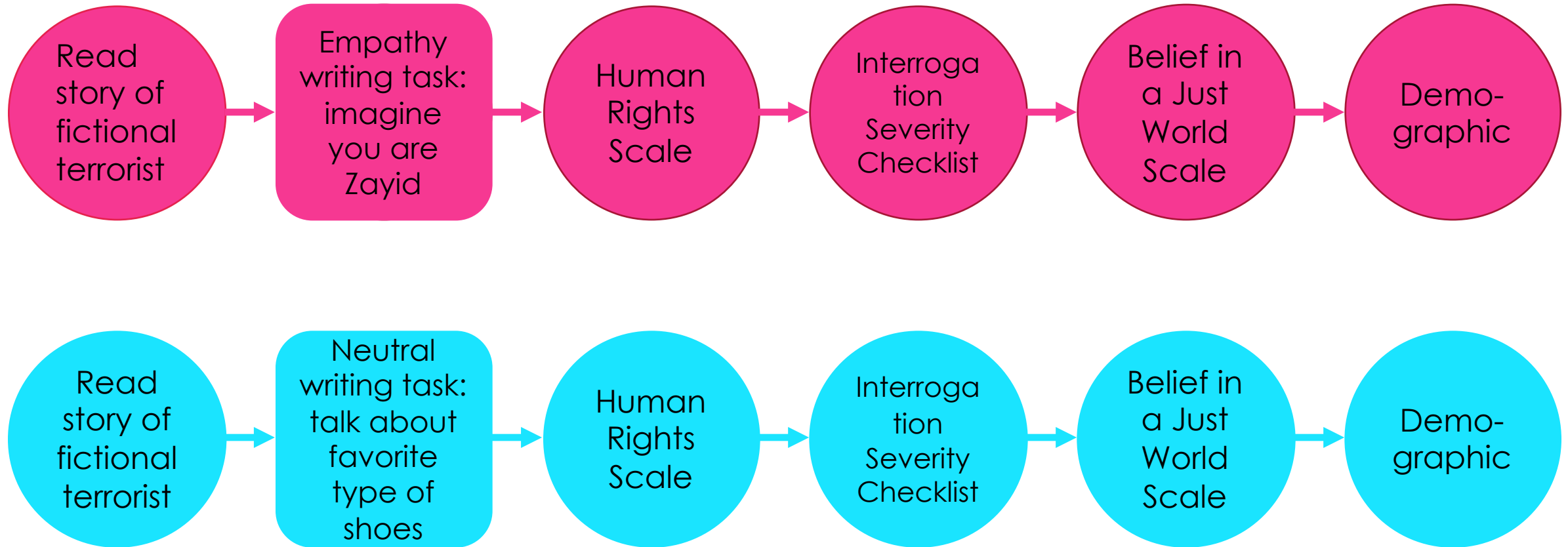
- Attitudes towards terrorists have become more positive following a semester long course on terrorism (Theriault, Krause & Young, 2017)
- People tend to use less severe interrogation techniques when the terrorist is a part of the in-group (Fischer, Oswald, & Seiler, 2013)
- People are less likely to condone human rights violations when the suspect does not seem deserving of punishment (Newheiser & DeMarco, 2018)
- It is possible create more positive regard for even perceived evil historical figures (Baumert, Hofmann, & Blum, 2008)

My Hypothesis:

Creating empathy for a terrorist will lead to the use of less severe interrogation technique recommendations, and less likelihood of approving of human rights violations. This effect will be moderated by political affiliation and belief in a just world.



Design Flow:



MEET ZAYID: FICTIONAL ISIS TERRORIST AND HIS HOMETOWN



HUMAN RIGHTS SCALE

Zayid's terrorist cell has recently been suspected in a terrorist attack in a major city. Officials have captured Zayid and brought him in for interrogation. There is no definitive evidence linking Zayid to the attack, however officials cannot account for his whereabouts that day.

- The FBI did not inform the suspect he had the right to remain silent.

Completely unacceptable 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Completely acceptable



INTERROGATION SEVERITY CHECKLIST

- Asking questions
- Asking trick questions
- Continually repeating questions
- Verbally offending and abusing
- Threatening a long prison sentence
- Forcing the suspect to take his clothes off
- Food deprivation
- Burning with a cigarette
- Waterboarding

BELIEF IN A JUST WORLD

- Belief in a Just World for Others

I feel that people generally earn the rewards and punishments that they get in this world.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

- Belief in a Just World for Self

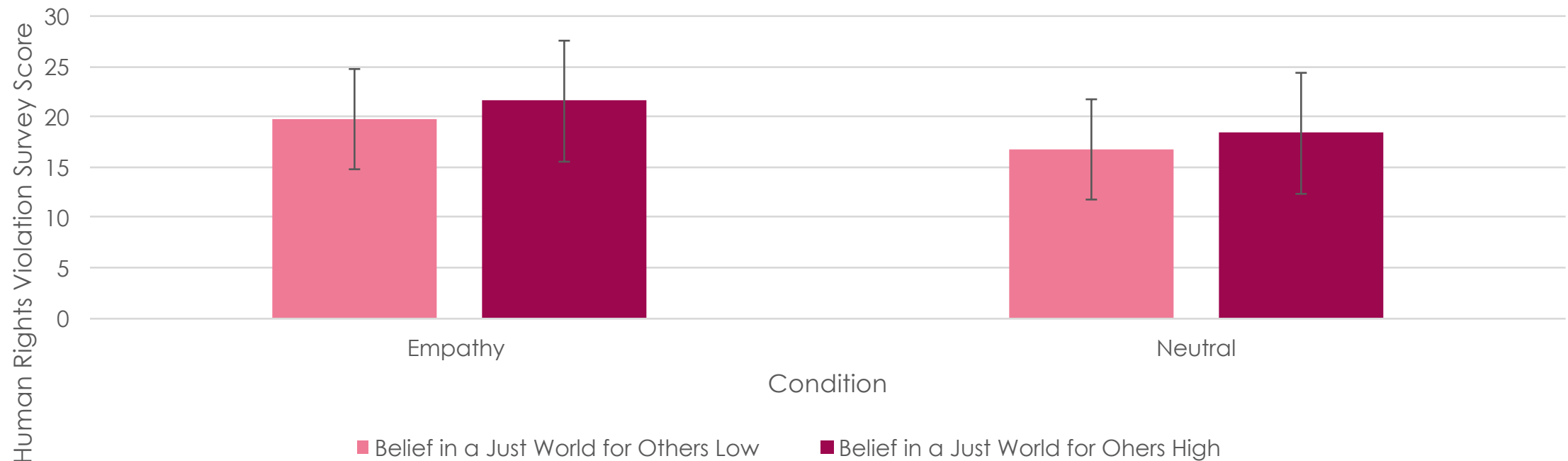
I feel that I generally earn the rewards and punishments that I get in this world.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

* Where 1 = completely disagree and 7 = completely agree

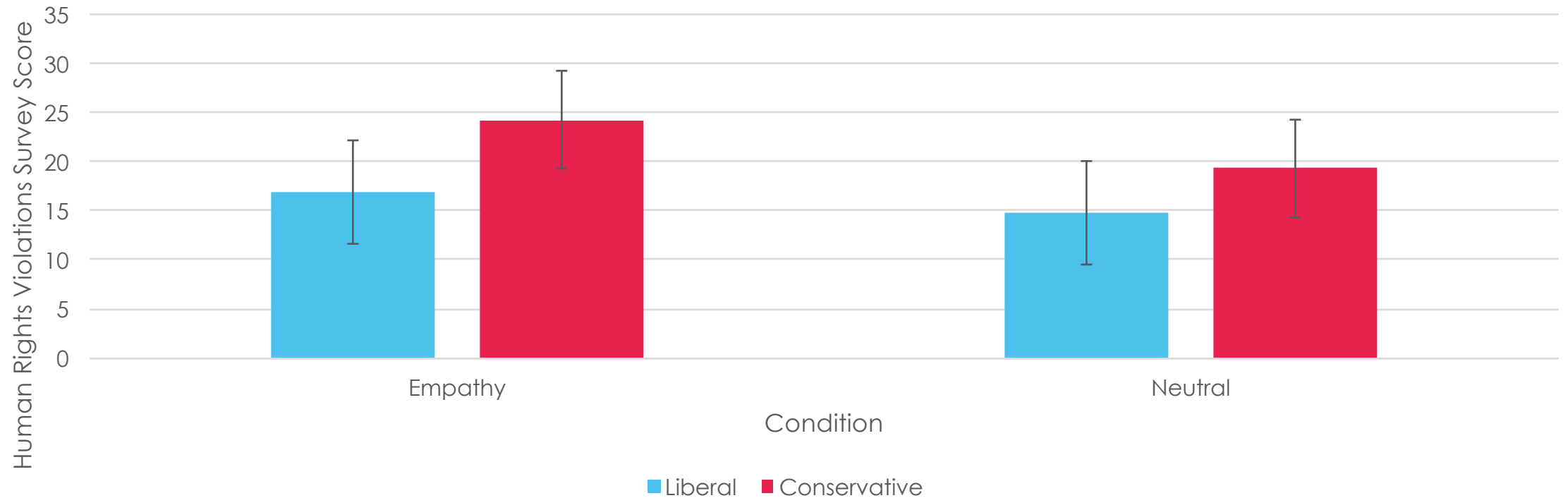
EFFECT OF BELIEF IN A JUST WORLD AND CONDITION ON APPROVAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Condition and Belief in a Just World for Others effect on Human Rights
Violations Score



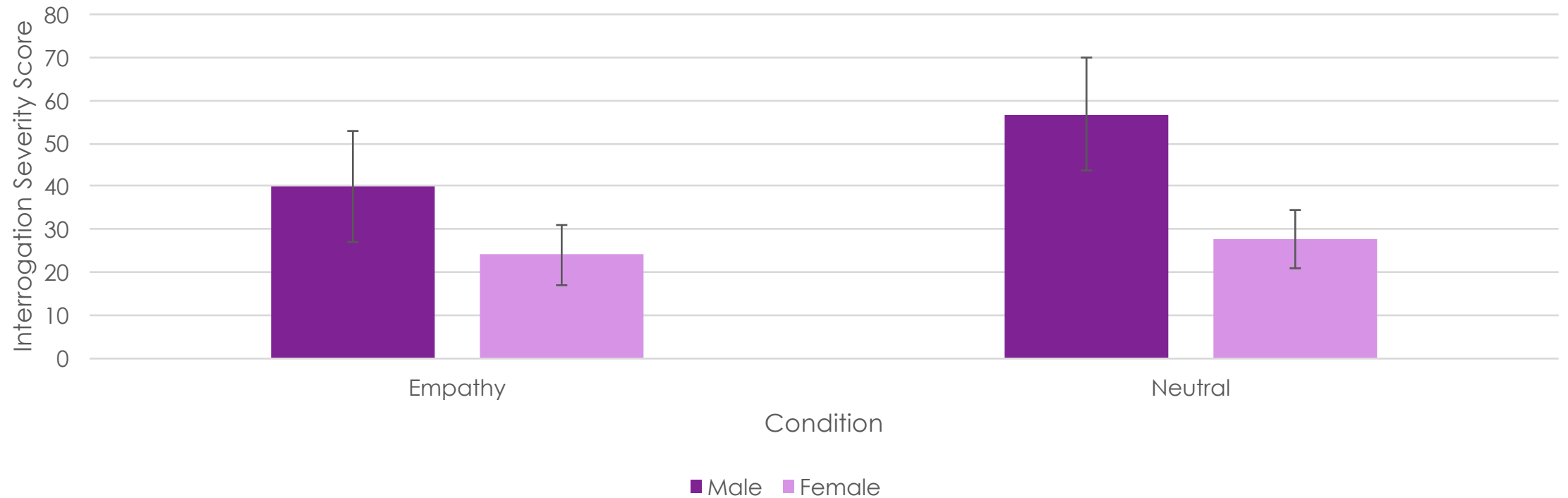
EFFECT OF CONDITION AND POLITICAL AFFILIATION ON APPROVAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Condition and Political Affiliation on Human Rights Violations Score



EFFECT OF EMPATHY AND GENDER ON INTERROGATION SEVERITY SCORES

Effect of Gender and Condition on Use of Severe Interrogation Techniques





DISCUSSION

- Little support for hypothesis: only support political affiliation difference among participants
- Terrorist stigmas are more resistant to change compared to other negatively stigmatized groups
- Gender differences are consistent with past aggression studies



DISCUSSION CONT.

- Future areas should include a homegrown terrorist condition, larger age demographic, and a longer perspective taking task
- Limitations include similar geographic participant pool, predominantly female participant pool (81.25% female), convenience sample of predominantly college students

REFERENCES

- Lipkusa, I. M., Dalbert, C., & Siegler, I. C. (1996). The Importance of Distinguishing the Belief in a Just World for Self Versus for Others: Implications for Psychological Well-Being. *Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin*, 22(7), 666-677. doi:10.1177/0146167296227002
- Miklikowska, M. (2018). Empathy trumps prejudice: The longitudinal relation between empathy and anti-immigrant attitudes in adolescence. *Developmental Psychology*, 54(4), 703-717. doi:10.1037/dev0000474
- Newheiser, A., & DeMarco, T. C. (2018). Who deserves basic rights? People condone violations of procedural and physical rights in the treatment of terrorist suspects. *Law and Human Behavior*, 42(1), 50-56. doi:10.1037/lhb0000275
- Schuler, M. et. al. (2019). Supplemental Material for Empathy in Pedophilia and Sexual Offending Against Children: A Multifaceted Approach. *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*. doi:10.1037/abn0000412.supp
- Semenova, E., & Winter, D. G. (2019). Soviet and German implicit perceptions of mutual threat, 1939–1941. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, 25(1), 72-85. doi:10.1037/pac0000367
- Sherman, R. C. (1973). Dimensional salience in the perception of nations as a function of attitudes toward war and anticipated social interaction. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 27(1), 65-73. doi:10.1037/h0034474
- Testé, B., & Perrin, S. (2013). The Impact of Endorsing the Belief in a Just World on Social Judgments. *Social Psychology*, 44(3), 209-218. doi:10.1027/1864-9335/a000105
- Theriault, J., Krause, P., & Young, L. (2017). Know thy enemy: Education about terrorism improves social attitudes toward terrorists. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 146(3), 305-317. doi:10.1037/xge0000261
- Baldry, A. C., Pacilli, M. G., & Pagliaro, S. (2014). She's Not a Person . . . She's Just a Woman! Infra-Humanization and Intimate Partner Violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 30(9), 1567-1582. doi:10.1177/0886260514540801
- Baumert, A., Hofmann, W., & Blum, G. (2008). Laughing About Hitler? *Journal of Media Psychology*, 20(2), 43-56. doi:10.1027/1864-1105.20.2.43
- Chang, C., & Lee, Y. (2009). Framing Charity Advertising: Influences of Message Framing, Image Valence, and Temporal Framing on a Charitable Appeal1. *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, 39(12), 2910-2935. doi:10.1111/j.1559-1816.2009.00555.x
- Fazio, L. K., & Marsh, E. J. (2009). Prior knowledge does not protect against illusory truth effects. *PsycEXTRA Dataset*. doi:10.1037/e520562012-049
- Fischer, A., Oswald, M. E., & Seiler, S. (2013). Terrorists Among Us, Effects of a Suspect's Group Membership, Terrorist Past, and Knowledge on Lay Persons' Interrogation Severity Recommendations. *Swiss Journal of Psychology*, 72(1), 13-23. doi:10.1024/1421-0185/a000094
- Gloor, J. L., & Puhl, R. M. (2016). Empathy and perspective-taking: Examination and comparison of strategies to reduce weight stigma. *Stigma and Health*, 1(4), 269-279. doi:10.1037/sah0000030
- Igartua, J., & Barrios, I. (2012). Changing Real-World Beliefs With Controversial Movies: Processes and Mechanisms of Narrative Persuasion. *Journal of Communication*, 62(3), 514-531. doi:10.1111/j.1460-2466.2012.01640.x
- Jason, L. A., Rose, T., Ferrari, J. R., & Barone, R. (1984). Personal versus Impersonal Methods for Recruiting Blood Donations. *The Journal of Social Psychology*, 123(1), 139-140. doi:10.1080/00224545.1984.9924525
- Kardash, C. M., & Scholes, R. J. (1996). Effects of preexisting beliefs, epistemological beliefs, and need for cognition on interpretation of controversial issues. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 88(2), 260-271. doi:10.1037/0022-0663.88.2.260

QUESTIONS?

